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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/070,781	08/27/2002	Dieter Baumann	HHI-041US	9674
959	7590	03/08/2004	EXAMINER	
LAHIVE & COCKFIELD, LLP. 28 STATE STREET BOSTON, MA 02109			CECIL, TERRY K	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1723	

DATE MAILED: 03/08/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b> 10/070,781	<b>Applicant(s)</b> BAUMANN ET AL.	
	<b>Examiner</b> Mr. Terry K. Cecil	<b>Art Unit</b> 1723	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 8-27-2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☒ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)   | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)  | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>0602</u> . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Specification*

1. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:
  - The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because it contains legal language: “comprises” and “means”. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).
  - Reference to claim numbers in the specification (e.g. page 1) should be removed, since claims are dynamic and change during prosecution.

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112-second paragraph*

2. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.
3. Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The claims are indefinite because of the following reasons:
  - The following terms lack antecedent basis: “the valve body” (claim 1, line 3); “the valve seat” (claim 2, line 3);
  - because “valve” appears multiple times in claim 1, the antecedent basis for “the valve body of the valve” of claim 2 is indeterminate;
  - Regarding claim 1, the phrases “such as an oil filter..” (line 1); “such as a check valve...” (line 2); and “such as an additional valve or...” (lines 5-6) render the claim indefinite

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because it is unclear whether the limitations following the phrase are part of the claimed invention. See MPEP § 2173.05(d).

- Claims 2-5 are also rejected since they suffer the same defects as the claims from which they depend.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112-first paragraph***

4. The following is a quotation of the first paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall contain a written description of the invention, and of the manner and process of making and using it, in such full, clear, concise, and exact terms as to enable any person skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and use the same and shall set forth the best mode contemplated by the inventor of carrying out his invention.

5. Claims 3-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The claims contains subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. While being enabling for the tubular sleeve (18) forming the valve body for the drain valve (figures 4A, 4B), the specification does not reasonably provide enablement for the tubular sleeve also forming “and/or” the drain valve”. Claims 4 and 5 are rejected since they suffer the same defects as the claims from which they depend.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

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A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

7. Claims 1-2 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Goddard (U.S. 6,068,763). As shown in e.g. figure 9, Goddard teaches all the limitations of the aforementioned claims including a filter housing 14, a combination component including a “base plate” (22), plurality of check valves (110, 110, 120) including springs and a valve seat 102 that can be separated from the component (the seat of valve 60 is also disposed separately) [as in claims 1-2] and wherein the filter element is separable from the components via a threaded connector of 12 [as in claim 5].

8. Claims 1-2 and 5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Gebert et al. (U.S. 5,589,060). As shown in his figure 2, Gebert anticipates all the limitations of the aforementioned claims including a combination components including a base plate 25, 2 check valves 27, two centrally located valves at opposite ends of central area 15 [as in claims 1-2] wherein the filter insert is separable therefrom [as in claim 5].

9. Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Ball (U.S. 3,268,077). As shown in figures 6 and 7, Ball teaches a combinations component that includes “base plate” 141/142 or 30/142 having a central opening that includes a removable sleeve 164

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that forms a valve body for a bypass function [as in claims 3-4]. Ball also teaches the component to include another valve 173 and associated valve seat, and filter housing 23 [as in claims 1-2] and a separable filter element 51 [as in claim 5].

10. Contact Information:

- Examiner Mr. Terry K. Cecil can be reached at (571) 272-1138 at the Carlisle campus in Alexandria, Virginia for any inquiries concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner. Note that the examiner is on the increased flextime schedule but can normally be found in the office during the hours of 8:30a to 4:30p, on at least four days during the week M-F.
- Wanda Walker, the examiner's supervisor, can be reached at (571) 272-1151 if attempts to reach the examiner are unsuccessful.
- The Fax number for this art unit for official faxes is 703-872-9306.
- Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Mr. Terry K. Cecil  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 1723

TKC  
February 27, 2004